

2020 Veteran of the Year

LeRoy Bunyan joined the United States Navy after graduating High School in 1967 at the age of 17 years old. He attended Jet Mechanic School in Memphis TN where he received orders to the US Navy Test Pilot school. He did two cruises on the Mediterranean Sea, one of which being an emergency deployment due to a commercial aircraft being high jacked to Jordan. LeRoy was proud to serve his country, and like most Veterans, the enlistment never ends, as there is always a call to duty for his community that he loves.

LeRoy has been an active member with many of the local posts and organizations to include American Legion Post 117, American Legion Post 778, the Marine Corps League 743, and the American Legion Riders in which he was one of the original members. He was instrumental in bringing the Vietnam Traveling wall to Butler in 2017, organized funding for the annual Riders motorcycle raffle during the pandemic, and takes great pride in participating in Toys for Tots each year ensuring that every child in need has a joyous Christmas. He has been an active participant in escorting Veterans back to Butler County, both alive and deceased. It is his honor to see that these heroes receive the welcome home they deserve.

LeRoy has served on many committees in the Butler County/Lawrence County area for the annual Stand Down, Veteran's Day, and Memorial Day events. Due to the pandemic, the local Memorial Day activities had to be cancelled, but LeRoy took it upon himself to organize a small ceremony honoring our veterans who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country. He was the Master of Ceremonies, and with a group of volunteers made sure these veterans were still recognized over at Diamond Park.

He has been active with the Butler County Veterans In Need program for the American Legion Riders as well as the county. This entailed many man hours of picking up and disturbing furniture and basic essentials to the many veterans in this community.

When LeRoy is not serving his community, he enjoys his downtime with his family, especially his five grandchildren. He also currently is a school bus driver for the Butler County school district in which he enjoys very much. This nomination comes well earned, and will serve him well as he continues to dedicate his time to his fellow veterans and community.